

Curriculum Vitae

Norman Ismael Mueller a.k.a. NM, date of birth: 19 February 1982.

NM uses different names for different instrumentations and methods in his solo works and projects:

- Ypsmael (live performance, hardware-based electroacoustic improvisation),
- SmaelyP (sound collage, radio play, live performance),
- AeLypsm (physical computing, sound collage, live performance),
- Psmaely (synthesis, live performance), and
- MaeLyps (organisation of concerts, workshops, netlabel from 2012 - 2019, on hiatus)

Most of his artistic work can be found under the Ypsmael moniker, work as producer / engineer under NM and Soundindex.

Contact and Information

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<https://normanmueller.com/>

<https://ypsmael.com/>

<https://www.soundindex.de/>

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Education

2018-2021 – M.A. MusicDesign, Furtwangen University and Trossingen University of Music, DE

2003-2007 – B.A. International Management (Honours), Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK

After graduation, I was employed full-time in the private sector for 1.5 years, followed by 4.5 years (from 2009 to 2014) of PhD research studies on the topic of research and development (open innovation). The so-called 'confirmation of candidature' phase of the programme (equivalent to M.Phil.) was completed before I left the programme as part of a restructuring of the team.

Educational Work

2010-present – Freelance organisation of improvisation performances/workshops, internationally
 2022-2025 – Course development (MMus Composition), research, Trossingen University of Music, DE
 2018-2019 – Start-up incubation, University of Applied Sciences, Albstadt-Sigmaringen, DE
 2009-2014 – Research Ph.D. programme, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK
 2002-2003 – Tutoring (entry level English, French, Spanish), Studienkreis Villingen and Tuttlingen, DE

In parallel, NM has been employed outside the arts and education between 2000 and 2009, including business project management, consultancy, sales and a work placement at a record label. A separate CV detailing work outside the arts is available on request.

Affiliations

2015-present – Founder/owner, soundindex.de, <https://www.soundindex.de/>
 2023 – Partner/Co-Organiser, Reservoir Festival for Sound and Media Art, <https://reservoir.space/>
 2019-2023 – Co-initiator/founding member, Reservoir e.V., <https://reservoir.space/verein/index.html>
 2017-2020 – Founder/owner, klangtyp.com (website offline)
 2015-2020 – Founder/owner, innolake.net/edulake.net (website offline)
 2018-2019 – Founding member, Reservoir Festival, <https://reservoir.space/2019/index.html>
 2012-2019 – Founder/Curator, (formerly) maelyps.com, now <https://maelyps.tumblr.com/>
 2018-2019 – Co-Initiator/Founding Member, Global Forest e.V., <https://global-forest.com/team>
 2016-2018 – Co-Initiator/Founding Member, Global Forest Collective, <https://www.globalforest2017.de/>

Solo Discography (Selection, 2020 - 2024)

2024 – Torsion, [Spalt-Ung](#), DE
 2024 – Akystret, [Chocolate Monk](#), UK
 2023 – (Are You Taken) Aback, (under the Smaely P moniker), [Chocolate Monk](#), UK
 2021 – Box of Black, [Eh? Cassettes](#), USA
 2020 – Klausal Organis - I Putu Purwwangsa Nagara (SmaelyP Remix), [Insitu Recordings](#), Indonesia

A complete list of releases is available from <https://normanmueller.com/works>

Duo Discography (Selection, 2022 - 2025)

2025 – Of Delusions, (with Eloine), [Chocolate Monk](#), UK [forthcoming]
 2024 – Mugress, (with Stefan Krausen, under Krausen Ypsmael), [Steep Gloss](#), UK
 2024 – Pockets, (with Eloine), [scatterArchive](#), UK
 2023 – Split, (with Eloine / Coims), [Eh? Cassettes](#), USA
 2022 – Dein und mein Wald, (with Dominik Irtenkauf), [Hörspielwiese Köln](#), DE

2022 – Lost Teeth, (with Eloine), [Chocolate Monk](#), UK

A complete list of releases is available from <https://normanmueller.com/works>

Ongoing Projects (Selection)

2024-present – Composer/Performer/Producer for Joel Penoan Ensemble [preliminary name]
 2024-present – Composer/Performer/Producer for Ypsmael + Diurnal Burdens (Ross Scott-Buccleuch)
 2024-present – Composer/Performer/Producer for Ypsmael + Hans-Joachim Irmeler
 2018-present – Composer/Performer/Producer for Ypsmael + Eloine (Bryan Day)
 2014-present – Composer/Performer/Producer for Ypsmael + Simon Whetham
 2013-present – Composer/Performer/Producer for Krausen Ypsmael (with Stefan Krausen)

A complete list of projects is available from <https://normanmueller.com/projects>

Ypsmael was primarily a live project between 2010 and 2020, which frequently collaborated with other artists, as well as under various pseudonyms. Most of Ypsmael's released works prior to 2020 were recorded live, often with a single microphone and on a single track, and deliberately without further editing, mixing or mastering. Before 2020, some live sets also included elements of visual and/or performance interventions in many different settings such as concert, installation, dance, performance art, film, theatre, video art, live cinema, live painting and poetry.

Overview of live performances and concert tours (2010 - 2024)

2024 – Germany, Luxembourg
 2023 – Great Britain, Germany
 2022 – Germany, France, Hungary, Serbia
 2021 – Germany, USA (remote)
 2020 – Germany (remote)
 2019 – Germany, Bulgaria
 2018 – Germany, Bulgaria, USA, Austria
 2017 – Germany, Bulgaria
 2016 – Great Britain, Germany
 2015 – Germany, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic
 2014 – Germany, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland, France
 2013 – Great Britain, USA, France, Netherlands, Germany
 2012 – Great Britain, USA
 2011 – Great Britain
 2010 – Great Britain

Live Performances and Radio Broadcasts (Selection)

2024 – Dudelange-Usines, LU – VEWA Espace de Création – DKollektiv – Ypsmael (solo) + workshop
 2024 – Powell River, BC – CJMP broadcast presented by Zoviet France – airplay of Krausen Ypsmael
 2024 – Taree, NSW – Lost and Found Sounds broadcast – airplay of Krausen Ypsmael
 2024 – London, UK – Resonance FM broadcast– airplay of Smaely P
 2024 – Jersey City, NJ – WFMU broadcast – airplay of Eloine + Ypsmael
 2023 – London, UK – Iklectik – Concert curated by Phil Durrant – Ypsmael + Eloine a/s Tim Hodgkinson
 2023 – Glasgow, UK – Radiophrenia broadcast – airplay of Dominik Irtenkauf & SmaelyP
 2023 – Vöhrenbach, DE – Reservoir Festival – screening of NM film + live set by Ypsmael a/s Felix Kubin

2022 – Cologne, DE – Hörspielwiese Köln award for Dominik Irtenkauf & SmaelyP
 2022 – Novi Sad, RS – CK13 radio feature curated by Ozren Lazic on 12 years of Ypsmael (airplay)
 2022 – Boston, MA – WZBC broadcast – airplay of Ypsmael
 2021 – Chicago, IL – Jefferson Park Exp/Pan Y Rosas Discos – Twitch performance by B.Day+Aelypsm
 2020 – Donaueschingen, DE – Donauhallen (Bartók Room) – Ypsmael staged and mixed by S. Bauhof
 2019 – St.Georgen, DE – Global Forest & Stiftung ErlebnisKunst Klangspiel#10 – Ypsmael + Bryan Day
 2019 – Burgas, BG – WATER Festival for Contemporary Art – NM film screening / music by Ypsmael
 2019 – Karlsruhe, DE – ZKM Center for Art and Media – next_generation 8.0 – AeLypsm (solo)
 2018 – Vienna, AT – Vienna University – On campus-concert – Krausen-Ypsmael a/s LaMusa
 2018 – Oakland, CA – Studio Grand – Oakland Freedom Jazz Society – Ypsmael (solo)
 2018 – San Francisco, CA – Canessa Gallery – Meridian Music – Ypsmael (solo)
 2018 – Los Angeles, CA – Coaxial Arts Foundation DTLA – Ypsmael (solo) w/ Pauline Lay
 2018 – Joshua Tree, CA – High Desert Soundings Festival – Ypsmael (solo) w/ Michael Pisaro, J. Jerman
 2014 – Bern, CH – Atelier Franziska Baumann – WIM/Dampfzentrale, Zentral-deZentral – Ypsmael (solo)
 2013 – Toledo, OH – Robinwood Concert House – Ypsmael (solo) w/ Keffe Jackson, Tomeka Reid
 2013 – Detroit, MI – North End Studios – Ypsmael (solo)
 2013 – Ithaca, NY – Cornell University – Bowhouse Prod. – Ypsmael (solo) w/ M.Shiflet, Circuit des Yeux
 2013 – Brooklyn, NY – Ange Noir (Bushwick) – SuperCoda – Ypsmael + Valerie Kuehne
 2013 – London, UK – Welsh Chapel – Eddie Prévost Workshop (group improvisation) w/ Artur Vidal, a.o.
 2013 – Paris, FR – Espace en Cours – Ypsmael+Valerie Kuehne, Thierry Müller, Cathy Heyden
 2013 – London, UK – Goldsmiths Univ. of London (Great Hall) – Improvised Combinations, Ypsmael (trio)
 2012 – London, UK – Music Hackspace 1st Anniversary – Ypsmael (solo) w/ B. Regina, J.M. Bowers
 2012 – Detroit, MI – Michigan Underground Group (MUG) – Ypsmael (solo) w/ T.J. Borden, a.o.
 2012 – Indianapolis, IN – Center for Contemporary Culture and Community – Ypsmael (solo)
 2012 – Cambridge, UK – International electronic music – Ypsmael (solo) w/ BJ Nilsen, J.Chantler
 2010 – Cambridge, UK – Bad Timing presents – Ypsmael (solo) w/ Dieter Moebius, Nochexxx

A complete list of all live dates and line-up details from 2010 onward can be found under:

<https://ypsmael.com/live>

Artistic Direction / Performance Curation, Presentation (Sessions, Workshops, Symposia)

2024 – Workshop leader/group improvisation for DKollektiv, at VEWA Espace de Création, LU
 2024 – Studio and recording direction ensemble improvisation at NM Soundindex, Meersburg, DE
 2024 – Artistic direction/workshop curation, Peripheral Techne, Simon Whetham+impro.ensemble, ibid., DE
 2024 – Panel Moderator for AI Ethics at International Symposium AI in Music, HfM Trossingen, DE
 2019 – Artistic direction & workshop curation for B.Day+AeLypsm Improvisation+Workshop, ibid. DE
 2019 – Artistic co-direction: EUERPI Ypsmael Duo Improvisation, Art Emona Symposium, Emona, BG
 2019 – Artistic co-direction: Ypsmael EUERPI Duo Improv., WATER Festival for Contemporary Art, BG
 2018 – Artistic direction: MaeLyps & POP present Kyle Motl+Ypsmael Duo Improvisation, Meersburg, DE
 2018 – Artistic direction: MaeLyps & Global Forest present K. Motl+Ypsmael Duo Improvisation, ibid. DE
 2018 – Artistic direction: MaeLyps & Global Forest present Joey Molinaro Solo Improvisation, ibid., DE
 2017 – Artistic co-direction of DUAL Sessions 2017, symposium for listening culture, Global Forest, DE
 2016 – Artistic direction: MaeLyps#3 - Unfun[de]a]d Fest - 3 days, 3 venues, 3 solos, 3 ensembles, UK
 2013 – Artistic direction: MaeLyps#2 - Free improvisation and real-time music session, London, UK
 2012 – Artistic direction: MaeLyps(likewildlife)#1 - Sound Art & Improv. Performance, Cambridge, UK

NM/Ypsmael has co-curated and artistically contributed to a number of events and concert series, including *The Experimental Sounding Board* (2013): A Feedback Loop of Live Painting and Sound Art in Brighton, Hamburg and Bonn, and as co-initiator, founding member and artistic co-director of [Global Forest 2017](#), [Global Forest e.V.](#), [Reservoir e.V.](#) and [Reservoir 2019](#). Between 2012 and 2019, [MaeLyps](#) was the DIY outfit for concerts and workshops organised by NM. MaeLyps was dedicated to presenting experimental music and related art projects without a budget (on a voluntary basis) in order to facilitate, promote, curate, document and collaborate on live performances. Live recordings were either archived, published or passed on to publishers with the artist's consent. (Example: [John Chantler. Touch Music](#)). Since 2024, [Soundindex.de](#) has brought together some of these activities, focusing on workshops, improvisation and recording sessions, as well as the production of music and media art.

Awards, Commissioned Work and Funding

2024 – VEWA commissioned a solo performance + group Improvisation workshop for DKollektiv, LU
 2023 – Musikfonds commissioned a solo intermedia and audiovisual collage by NM+Ypsmael live set, DE
 2022-2023 – STMWK commissioned a collaboration, S.Krausen (painting) + Ypsmael (solo), DE
 2022 – Hörspielwiese Award for short-format radio play 'Dein und mein Wald', D.Irtenkauf+SmaelyP, DE
 2019 – StiftungErlebnisKunst (Ravensburg) commissioned performance/workshop, B.Day+AeLypsm, DE
 2018 – Global Forest Kunstverein artist residency for AeLypsm Electromechanic Gong Ensemble, DE
 2014 – Concert series WIM Zentral-deZentral commissioned double performance by Ypsmael, CH
 2009-2012 – PhD Studentship bursary, Ashcroft International Business School, Cambridge, UK
 2005 – Scholarship for students with advanced standing, Freiburg International Business School, DE
 2002 – Zauchner Study Scholarship (Intensive English Program), Western Washington University, USA

Formative Encounters

[Hans-Joachim Irmeler](#), [Dieter Moebius](#), [Damo Suzuki](#), [Phil Durrant](#), [Tim Hodgkinson](#), [Mark Wastell](#), [Jack Wright / Roughhousing](#), [Jeph Jerman](#), [Michael Pisaro](#), [Walter Wright](#), [Id M Theft Able](#), [Tomeka Reid](#), [T.J. Borden](#), [Nate Young](#), [Karen Constance](#), [Felix Kubin & Josephin Boettger](#), [Tom Mudd](#), [Tasos Stamou](#), [Stefan Schneider](#), [Hans-Joachim Roedelius](#), [Eddie Prévost](#), [Pimmon](#), [Simon Whetham](#), [Simon Scott](#), [BJ Nilsen](#)

Artist Statement

Ypsmael fuses and layers vibrations from manipulated audio feedback, along with sounds of modified and self-made instruments, amplified objects, spatial acoustic properties and environmental noises. In its unpolished nature, his approach to sound resembles less music than a kind of sculpting with sounds, a process that evokes rather than explains - a journey of discovery in which the music plays the musician, not the other way around. Ypsmael is an open vessel and is thus subject to fluctuations, including fragility and vulnerability, as a stylistic device as well as a part of free electroacoustic improvisation, collage or composition. Each performance and each project is unique due to changing combinations of digital and analog circuits, arrangements of found sounds and sonic artifacts. Through intensive listening, auditory impressions can be condensed into associative or purposive sound formations, sonic routes and identities. The result is a triad between the already existing (the room), the emergent, as well as decisions to be made in situ.